pertaining to National Highways Development Project (NHDP), at about 867 Km. length have been awarded in the year 2006-2007 so far.

(b) The target for award of contract for the year 2006-07 is as under:—

Project	Length (in Km.)
NHDP Phase-II	1758
NHDP Phase-III	1603

(c) and (d) So far, new Model Concession Agreement has not been issued to bidders. No problem has been communicated by the private players to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in regard to new Model Concession Agreement.

Slow pace of construction work on NH-5 from Bhubaneswar to Khurda

964. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that NH-5 from Bhubaneswar to Khurda has turned into death trap on account of slow pace of construction work;

(b) whether this work has been entrusted to the private firms for four laning of the Highway, who feel unconcerned to speed up its execution; and

(c) if so, the action plan of Government to speed up its execution to control the death toll on this stretch?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir. The National Highway 5 forming part of Golden Quadrilateral for the Kolkata-Chennai section, which includes the stretch between Bhubaneswar and Khurda in Orissa is not a death trap.

(b) Four laning work has been entrusted to private firm for construction.

(c) This National Highway is substantially 4-lanned with divided carriageway, which prevents accident. The balance length of 4-laning work is in advance stage of construction.